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# LETTER DATED 15 NOVEMBER 1993 FROM THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF CROATIA ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In view of the fact that the present mandate of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) will expire on 31 March 1994, it is the firm opinion of the Croatian Government that the remaining period should be dedicated to fulfilling all of the provisions envisaged in the relevant Security Council resolutions, particularly resolution 871 (1993). This should be pursued through a peaceful and negotiated procedure, based on the premises of the Security Council resolution 815 (1993) that United Nations protected areas are "integral parts of the territory of the Republic of Croatia".

In accordance with Council resolution 871 (1993), paragraph 7, I would like to emphasize the importance my Government attaches to rapid and complete restoration of the governmental authority of Croatia in the so-called "pink zones" on Croatian territory. This should be regarded as a first step in the comprehensive implementation of the peace plan for Croatia.

Although it was under no obligations to agree to the establishment of "pink zones", Croatia accepted this measure in June 1992, hoping that it would ease tensions in the area and contribute to a peaceful settlement of the crisis. What was considered to be a temporary and short-term confidence-building measure is now being gravely misused by the Serbian insurgents who continue to occupy various parts of Croatia's territory. The Secretary-General's report dated 29 June 1992 (S/24188) clearly stated that "the first objective of UNPROFOR is to achieve demilitarization and the disbanding of paramilitary and irregular forces". To date, none of these goals has been achieved, not even the withdrawal of Serbian paramilitary forces from the so-called "pink zones", which was scheduled to commence more than one year ago.

In my letter to the Security Council dated 24 September 1993 (S/26491), we expressed our deepest discontent with the lack of any efficient action concerning the aforementioned report of the Secretary-General. Since the situation in the so-called "pink zones" remains unchanged, Croatia is compelled to reiterate its request for immediate restoration of its governmental authority in the entire area of the so-called "pink zones".

In the peace initiative of the President of Croatia, Franjo Tudjman, inscribed in the document (S/26681), Croatia offered a comprehensive proposal for implementation of the peace plan in the United Nations protected areas,

including concrete measures for granting local and cultural autonomy to the population in the territory of Croatia, where they represent a local majority. Croatia called the Serbian side to re-establish a "joint commission" with the goal to "oversee and monitor the process of restoration of the authority of the 'pink zones' by the Croatian Government", as inscribed in document S/24188. Unfortunately the local self-proclaimed Serbian authorities did not respond positively to this initiative. In this regard my Government would like UNPROFOR to take a more active role in encouraging the Serbian side to cease their ongoing obstruction of the immediate and peaceful restoration of Croatian authorities in the so-called "pink zones".

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mate GRANIC
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Vice-President of the Government
of the Republic of Croatia

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